



SPRING 2023

NEWSLETTER

PUD RECEIVES \$6.4 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION FUNDS!

In April, we received \$5.9 million in Congressional Funding for Waterline Improvements!

And last November, we were awarded \$450,000 for Emergency Valve Bolt replacement!

LETS TALK ABOUT HOW WE GOT HERE!

In 2019, the PUD had a Water System Master Plan drafted in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rules. The Master Plan provides a complete evaluation of the water system. A Master Plan is useful because it identifies what needs to be updated based on the age of the system and growth in the community. It also provides a guideline of how to make those upgrades, when they should happen, and what the associated costs would be.

Our evaluation resulted in several recommended improvements (known as capital improvements) with associated costs and priorities. The Priority 1 projects are recommended for the next 5 years. The Board of Directors invested in preliminary engineering work on these projects. In this newsletter, we will discuss the Priority 1 projects we have planned and have underway.



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Valve Bolts Project

In the summer of 2022, the PUD experienced two leak incidents at almost the same time. We found that in both cases the problem was caused by bolt failure. The bolts, put in place in 1996, were corroded and of a sub-standard quality. Our staff found these low-quality bolts were used on valves throughout the water system and many will need to be replaced.

We quickly started working to find emergency funding to expedite repairs. Thankfully, after a lot of work applying for assistance from the state, we were able to secure \$450,000 to replace these bolts. Half will be an outright grant and half will be a 30-year loan at 1% interest from Business Oregon.

We will work in conjunction with a local contractor to excavate the valve clusters. Once the site is stable and safe (some water mains are 6' deep!), the contractor will replace the bolts one at a time, thus allowing the valve to stay in service during the work. This means we should be able to make repairs without turning off water for customers! However, we do expect some valves will need to be rebuilt and will require a shut-down. Once all the corroded components are replaced, the contractor will backfill the area and provide other restoration work as needed.

Additionally, the system has 2 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) that are vital to the system operating properly. The Master Plan suggests these be replaced due to their age and the wear and tear they have endured. Therefore, this project is included in the Priority 1 projects.

We expect to start on this project by late Spring or early Summer.



Business Oregon is the state's economic development agency.

Their mission is to invest in Oregon's businesses, communities, and people to promote a globally competitive, diverse, and inclusive economy.

Some of their core functions include rural community development and infrastructure financing!

Will my bill go up because of these projects?

We have a rate increase planned for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1st)

HOWEVER, we anticipate it will be a small rate increase, to offset ROUTINE operating costs. More information will be available in June.

We understand that times are still difficult, and the cost of everything has gone up. If you need assistance, or anticipate needing assistance, *don't hesitate to reach out.*

We are still offering payment plans and can discuss what might work for you!

Treated Water Distribution System

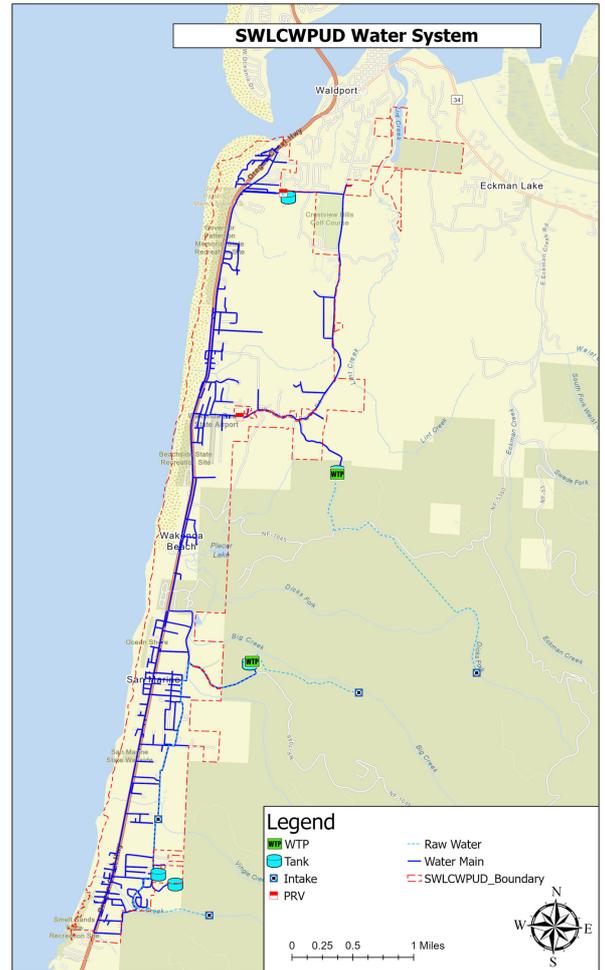
President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in 2021. The Passing of BIL provides a 5-year opportunity of enhanced funding through the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWRLF) to address various drinking water infrastructure needs.

We applied for these funds at the beginning of 2023. In April, staff attended the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Board meeting to present our application. We are thrilled to announce our application was accepted!

Water Distribution System Upgrades are included in our Priority 1 projects. We had a Preliminary Engineering Report done in 2022. The report specifies 8 pipeline segments, totally about 12,000-ft, for replacement.

First and foremost, these replacements will give us seismic resiliency. Our pipes will be protected and secure in the event of a large-scale earthquake. Secondly, we will be able to reduce “dead end” lines. This will decrease the risk of water service interruptions. Thirdly, we will upsize some pipelines. Larger lines in key locations will provide increased fire flow (making the fire hydrants more powerful when they are being used). They will also increase flow through the system and facilitate future growth.

At this time, we do not have a projected start date. Details to follow in our next newsletter!



Water Treatment Plant

Last summer we started to rehabilitate the Blodgett Water Treatment Plant. We replaced the filtration media and modernized the operating and control system. Essentially, the plant got a new brain and new guts!

This work will continue for the next couple of years. We will update the computer monitoring and control system at the water intakes, reservoirs, and pump stations. With the new technology, we will be able to remotely record, transmit and report data.

Treatment plant upgrades are included in our Priority 1 projects and are funded by internal reserves.



NEW SUBDIVISION BOUNDARY FOR 2023

Oregon Administrative Rules require the Board of Directors to divide the District into 5 subdivisions, as nearly equal in population as possible.

Due to population growth, the population of the original subdivisions were uneven. We adjusted the 4th and 5th subdivision boundaries (the PUD's southern boundary), and the 1st and 2nd subdivision boundaries (the northern boundary) to balance the population in each.

For more information, and to view the full Subdivision Map, please visit our website. You may also request copies from the District Office.

READING YOUR BILL

Usage is calculated in Cubic Feet.
For Gallons, multiply your usage by 7.48

Usage: 800.00

Previous Read Date: 10/10/2022
Current Read Date: 11/14/2022

Item	Read Type	Quantity	Loss Factor	Rate	Sub Total
Water					
Water Usage		Actual 200.0000	ft3	0.029900/ft3	\$5.98
Water Usage		Actual 500.0000	ft3	0.040800/ft3	\$20.40
Base Rate					
Base Rate		35.0000	Day	1.370000/Day	\$47.95
Bond Surcharge					
Bond Surcharge		1.0000	U	9.200000/U	\$9.20
Total Charges					\$83.53

If you notice your bill is higher than usual, please refer to the number of days in the billing cycle! Billing cycles fluctuate between 28 – 36 days

If you have more than one "usage charge", it's because we have tiered usage rates!
The first 100 cuft. is included in the Base Rate.
Then 101-300 cu ft. is \$2.99/cu. ft
After that, the rate is \$4.08/cu. ft up to 1000 cu. ft.
After that, we get into another tier & you get the point!
Our rate chart is on the website or at the office.



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